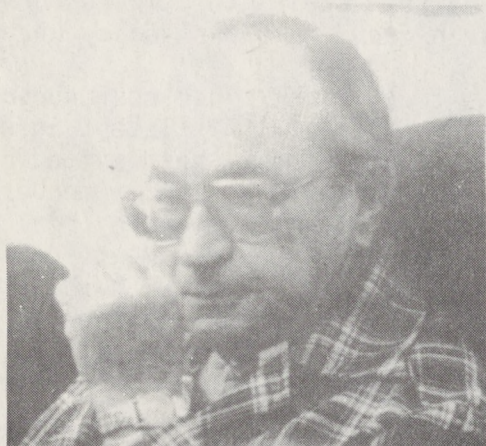


MINDS MADE UP ...



Supervisor Johnny Johnson



Supervisor Bob Bremmer



Supervisor P.D. Cook



Supervisor Larry Calkins

The
Inyo County
NEWS-LETTER

60¢

March 10, 1984

4 OUT OF 5 INYO SUPERVISORS MAKE UP
THEIR MINDS BEFORE PUBLIC HEARINGS -
WORKSHOPS.

Four Inyo Supervisors seemed to have their minds made up on the DWP agreement proposal. Nothing - not even their constituents' pleas - seemed to alter the views of the Board members. Many were asking why these officials appeared so determined to pass the agreement.

In case there were any doubts about just how determined the board is, it became clear when a constituent of Supervisor P.D. Cook revealed the contents of a conversation. James Wilson said he called his Supervisor, P.D. Cook, to talk about the agreement. Wilson said Cook told him the agreement is too technical to discuss. Wilson asked Cook if the so-called workshop/public hearings will really give the people a chance to voice their views. Cook replied, "Our intent is to get those meetings over with and pass the agreement as fast as we can."

Cook's words only confirmed what many suspected. As one knowledgeable source said, right from the start the Supervisors decided among themselves to support the agreement regardless of public sentiment. Supervisor Lefty Irwin alone broke from that unspoken pact. He questioned the value of the agreement and complained that it does not pin down specific conservation programs in Los Angeles. Irwin also said he had asked that DWP be required to begin de-salinization processes on ocean water. That was left out of the agreement.

Irwin was, of course, the one to ask that the agreement go on the June ballot. The position of the other four Board members grew more clear when they all voted no on that. Many courthouse watchers commented that Johnson, Bremmer, Calkins, and Cook were afraid to allow the agreement to go to a vote of the people since they believed the people would have voted it down. And so, the Supervisors retained the power of decision on the agreement. Courthouse sources say that the Supervisors have felt some pressure from criticism that they have failed to allow adequate public input on the agreement issue. So the Board did schedule public hearings for March 13th and 14th.

But they were not set up as just public hearings... but workshop/public hearings. That means that County

(continued on page 2)

Inside:

- p.3 - LP and OV School Boards meet together
- p.4 - News Briefs
- p.6 - Woody and Caboose
- p.7 - Benbrook
- p.8 - BK's Notes

officials could argue with the public instead of just sitting silently and listening to their constituents. The situation comes very close to public hearings held by the Department of Water and Power on water rate increases. Everyone knows DWP will raise the rates, but they hold public hearings anyway. It becomes a mere formality and a kind of mockery of the idea of public participation in government.

The Owens Valley Committee members have not given up. While the Supervisors and their staff people plotted to railroad the agreement through, OVC met regularly to set up a strategy to defeat the agreement. A phone campaign had begun and OVC members discovered that many people are quietly but deeply angry over the agreement and the way the Supervisors have handled it.

The Supervisors themselves received many phone calls, although some Board members refused to admit it. Supervisor Larry Calkins, who has kind of hedged on the water issue, finally said that he tends to favor the agreement because of the "protections surrounding the pumping table". When asked what he meant by protections, Calkins replied "you know very well what I mean".

When pressed further for an explanation, Calkins said that DWP is required to use Metropolitan Water District water, San Fernando groundwater, and conservation methods. News-Letter pointed out that DWP has already been doing these things and that the "requirements" are nothing new. Calkins had no reply to the fact that the agreement does permit increased groundwater pumping.

But Calkins response is similar to those exhibited by Supervisors Cook, Johnson, and Bremmer. They have only one reply - and that is generally that the agreement is the best we can get and nothing too terrible can happen during three years of the agreement. Of course, there is no guarantee the agreement will last only three years and there is also no guarantee that the wet year conditions will continue through the term of the agreement. Four Supervisors have not publicly discussed any of these issues. In fact, the Supervisors, except for Mr. Irwin, have remained practically silent about the content of the agreement. They have only communicated the desire to pass it.

Owens Valley Committee members spent recent days urging citizens to attend the public hearings at Bishop on March 13th and at Lone Pine, March 14th. In the past, some Supervisors had finally listened to their constituents when a DWP agreement was about to be passed. And there have been a few. For the past five years, DWP has tried to persuade the Supervisors to sign agreements. Most of them had one goal - to free Los Angeles to pump as much water as it can from the Owens Valley underground.

That's what OVC members and courthouse watchers are now saying - this latest agreement gives DWP everything it has wanted for the past 12 years. David Miller, a member of the Owens Valley Committee and a local resident, has analyzed the agreement for several weeks. He compared it with the DWP's 1972 plan for increased pumping in the Owens Valley. That's the one that Inyo took to court. DWP was ordered to prepare an environmental impact report. Miller said that the new agreement's pumping table almost identically matches the one DWP wanted in 1972. He said that DWP gets its increased pumping through the agreement without having to prepare an EIR and without having to answer to the court. Miller and many others have raised serious questions about the agreement - the pumping allowed in the agreement is three times greater than the County's own water management plan recommends; the agreement fails to address surface water management; language loopholes are everywhere in the agreement proposal; and the money involved is a pittance to DWP and not nearly enough for Inyo.

Water Director Greg James, apparently ordered by the Supervisors, did come out with a response to these concerns. But as one source close to the situation said, "once again, this is not a serious response to the substance of the agreement but just more words that seem deliberately contrived to deceive the public."

Inyo people are feeling left out in what is probably the most important issue for Inyo County's future. But as many have privately said - the fight's not over yet.

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GETTING TOGETHER!



LP Supt. Don Remley (on left), LP Board President Al George, and UV (Independence) Board President Mark Felton (on right)

Together, we stand...divided, their education quality falls. Local teachers and education officials are beginning to see that the small schools in each Inyo County town need each other for the sake of the students.

When the idea of consolidating Lone Pine and Independence school districts came up, community pride dampened thoughts of any school giving up its own identity. But school officials, all too aware of the money problems and the lacks in local education, did concede to at least sit down together with the idea of helping each other out - but keeping their separate community schools intact. The school boards of Independence and Lone Pine held a joint meeting for the first time.

Inyo County schools...especially in southern Inyo...exist on bare bones budgets. Officials often hear what the future will bring, or more likely, what money it won't bring. So they try to save up. The small schools have lost some classes in recent years. In fact, neither Lone Pine nor Independence schools offer music classes. Frequently, music and the arts are the first to be sacrificed when schools face money troubles.

Lone Pine school board member Charles Jones asked both schools to get together on music. He likes the idea of both schools sharing a music teacher. Sometimes it takes a teacher to help a student discover a hidden talent or potential career. In Inyo County, music and art instruction is limited. The school boards carried the original idea further - some said that the schools could even share a teacher of art, foreign languages, and computer science.

If, in fact, this sharing idea really can work, the possibilities are endless. In fact, the practical-minded Lone Pine School Superintendent, Don Remley, saw even more potential cooperation. He brought up the idea of Independence, Death Valley, Lone Pine, maybe even Big Pine, getting together to make purchase orders for the school year. After all, things ordered in greater quantities cost less. Remley point-

ed out that the Lone Pine school district had saved \$2,000 this past year in sports equipment alone by purchasing in large quantities instead of separate individual orders. Owens Valley School Superintendent Ron Huebert liked the sound of money savings. He, too, wants to think about that idea.

In fact, it was a meeting of little disagreement. The ideas had obviously been kicked around before the big night of the joint meeting. But at the session, all of the officials were there and they seemed to like the plan of getting together on teachers and purchases.

Superintendent Huebert later said that he believes the two School Boards will meet on a quarterly basis or maybe twice a year. He said there is the possibility that Big Pine may want to join in too. ■

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News Briefs

APPLE VALLEY WOMAN TO RUN FOR STATE SENATE/ MORE ON THE LAZY A SHOPPING CENTER/ UNION CARBIDE TO HAVE MORE LAYOFFS/ DWP TO BRING IN THE WRECKING CREW/ BURRUDS KEEP THEIR DIRT ROAD/ 11.3% JOBLESS RATE FOR INYO/ AND MORE...

When the Democrats in Sacramento reapportioned or changed district lines, they did so to the benefit of Democratic legislators. Republican Senator H.L. Richardson got "stuck" with Inyo County and a widely spread out new district. Now, as most know, Richardson faces competition from his new district, one in which many voters do not know him and may have never seen him.

A spunky lady from Apple Valley says she will win Senator Richardson's seat. Diana Monaghan has served as a County Supervisor in San Bernardino County. Now she wants to serve in the State Legislature. She attacks her opponent by saying he doesn't go to work when he should. Monaghan says Richardson has a serious absentee problem in the Senate. She says Richardson has ignored senior citizens issues, health issues and only boasts of a strong stand on law enforcement. Monaghan matches Richardson when it comes to gun control and tough laws.

Apparently Richardson, who is considered a very well-organized and powerful politician, has at least noted Monaghan's presence. For the first time in as long as anyone can remember, he has planned a trip to Inyo County. Richardson's aide tells us he will be here on April 16th. Sometimes competition makes the politician grow fonder.

For the developing firm of Crumpler and Kruger... building shopping centers is old hat. They have been involved in the development of 30 shopping centers in the west.

So the protests in Inyo County probably seem like a minor irritation. Of course, merchants have filed a lawsuit to challenge the center project. They don't want high powered competition to eat away at downtown business in Bishop. Jerry Crumpler said he wasn't bothered much by the opposition...



Developer Crumpler on left, front row

says he's seen it before. Crumpler claims that a shopping center in the Lazy A area of Bishop will enhance all business in the community. He believes his center will draw more business to the whole area.

Of course, Bishop businessmen are not convinced of such optimistic beliefs. They want an economic and environmental study done on the project before it goes in. So far, County officials say that's not necessary.

This fight was scheduled to go to court on March 15th. It's not often that whole blocks of businessmen get together and file lawsuits. Clearly, many in the Bishop area do have money fears. The past couple of years have been rough economically and many merchants say they just don't want any more undermining of their trade.

But there are some who have voiced the concern that the real undermining factor is the lack of balanced growth in Inyo. Officials privately say that stifling growth is not the answer. For those who believe in the theory of grow or die, Bishop needs help. Most believe that at this time a big shopping center will not particularly help local small businessmen. But there are other acres available that could also be developed into shopping areas. It may be an idea that will happen.

For at least 10 years, local Chamber of Commerce people and public officials have talked about bringing in light industry to create jobs. It hasn't happened yet. LA-DWP's squeeze on land ownership and water has made it difficult. But few have really tried to expand the economy to industry. If there were more jobs and more people, business could rely more heavily on local trade.

Meanwhile, merchants understandably want to fight the possibility of deterioration of business, which for many, are life long investments held together with hard work and personal investment.

After news of unemployment figures came out from the State, word came out of Union Carbide that another temporary shutdown of the tungsten mill means layoffs for 45 Carbide workers on March 25th.

Carbide officials have, for the last year or so, bemoaned the ups and downs of the tungsten market. As that market goes, so goes Union Carbide. For workers and their families it has been an economic and emotional seesaw with a continuous cycle of layoffs and returns to work... never knowing if jobs will remain.

For mine workers, relocating is difficult too, since mines all over the west have experienced problems in recent years. And so Carbide employees and their families try to wait out the uncertainties. Some have suffered serious domestic problems as the pressures of no money and no work eat away at family relations.

Carbide officials say they don't know when workers will be called back on the job. They say the mine will be open before the mill. It all depends on the tungsten market which, in recent months, has improved slightly.

NEWS BRIEFS (continued on page 9)

WHATEVER YOU ARE WHOEVER YOU ARE

accountants
actors
architects
artists
astronomers
Audobon members
authors
babysitters
bakers
bankers
barbers
bartenders
beauticians
bookkeepers
BPW members
broadcasters
builders
busboys
bus drivers
business people
butchers
cabinetmakers
carpenters
cashiers
caterers
chambers of commerce
chefs
chimney sweeps
chiropractors
citizens
civic club members
clerk
clerk
cobblers
Congregational Citizens
contractors
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cowboys
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dentists
designers
doormen
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economists
electricians

elks
engineers
fathers
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foresters
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grocers
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janitors
judges
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Lions
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masons
Masons
mechanics
miners
models
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hotel owners
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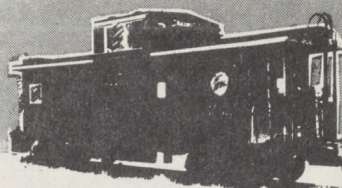
TO COME TO THE PUBLIC HEARINGS
WORKSHOPS ON THE PROPOSED
WATER AGREEMENT

TUESDAY, MARCH 13
BISHOP CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
7:00 PM

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14
LONE PINE TOWN HALL
7:00 PM

DEMAND A FAIR HEARING
DEMAND A BETTER DEAL

WOODY & CABOOSE



Firman and Frances Wood: "Woody and Caboose" a few years ago in front of their Lone Pine Station home when they thought they could live there as caretakers for as long as they liked.

When Southern Pacific Railroad decided to abandon its line in Southern Inyo, rail officials told station agent, Firman "Woody" Wood and his wife Frances, that they could continue to live in the old station building as long as they liked as "caretakers." They have lived above the station offices since 1956. It's kind of a Lone Pine institution. But it may be an institution in jeopardy.

A source inside Southern Pacific indicated that it is very possible once SP pulls out all of its rail lines, the Lone Pine Station land will go to City of Los Angeles ownership. For several weeks now a railroad company out of Utah has been picking up SP's rails. Frances Wood, known as "Caboose" after her CB handle, said she has been trying to buy the Lone Pine Station building which holds her and Woody's long time home. So far, she has no deal.

DWP's land agent Cy Jeter said that "based on how things went when Southern Pacific abandoned the track right of way north of Lone Pine, that may happen. They quit claimed the right of way to adjoining property owners. If they use this policy," said Jeter, "Los Angeles may get the land." LADWP owns land adjoining the Lone Pine Station. But Jeter said he really "doesn't know" if that will happen.

Since 1956 Woody had worked as the station agent at Lone Pine for Southern Pacific. He supervised the loading of Inyo's ore output and loading of the lava

hauled down to the Lone Pine railhead by truck. The trains then served to supply equipment for the construction of the Los Angeles aqueduct, returning to L.A. with the agricultural produce of the valley - produce that the aqueduct would finally destroy.

When Southern Pacific first admitted they would abandon the rail line in Inyo, Woody said that trucking had been the downfall of the train. Woody and Caboose accepted the winds of change as the activity drained out of their Lone Pine Station. But they did have their home and they want very much to keep it. ■



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BENBROOK

by Clarence Benbrook

THOUGHTS ON D.W.P. - INYO WATER AGREEMENT:

If D.W.P. can pump more water in case of a drought, who is going to furnish Inyo with the additional water it will need for the same reason.

In calculating the runoff, these methodologies, gauges, stations and surveys used to estimate runoff since 1970 shall be employed. What was put into effect before 1970 that they might be trying to get around?

The County will receive \$860,000 from D.W.P. for groundwater studies. Groundwater studies, as such, will not solve anything, but will waste money D.W.P. collects from its customers. But Inyo would have a ball spending it.

The offering of reduction of customer's water bill could be called a boon, or a bribe.

The term reasonably practical is used many times. What is reasonably practical and who judges what is reasonable and practical?

In-Valley water use is subject to reasonable conservation. Who decides this - Valley or DWP?

A Technical Committee and a Standing Committee will be formed by County, City, and D.W.P. Does this mean two to one DWP?

If the agreement is not terminated by either party before 3-1-87, neither party can have the right to terminate it thereafter. Like a marriage, DWP could contain their bad intentions until the marriage was consummated.

While the Standing Committee and Technical Committee decide over the amount of groundwater pumped, DWP can merrily pump away.

Evidently the Technical Committee knows what it is doing, we hope. The Standing Committee sounds like it is just standing there.

In numbering sections of the contract (11.) (11.1) (11.1.2), who knows what could have been left out or added?

If new wells are not now allowed, why should the committees decide on the need for new wells? If the present ones can pump the limits on the water schedule, why should they put in provisions for new ones? Wonder if DWP thinks or knows it can handle the committees?

In the event of emergencies, the DWP can immediately decide to pump in excess of the requirements. Who will decide what is an emergency? in this case it will definitely

be DWP. After the pumping is started they can drain the water table while the two committees argue.

if the two committees don't agree, the matter will be settled in court. All other matters that were previously scheduled for court will be demolished.

Each party shall keep and hold the other party free and harmless from any and all cost, liability damage or expense by anyone, by reason of etc. etc. etc. - Seems like nobody can sue anybody from here to eternity.

The language in the agreement is excessive and confusing. For one adequate word sometimes three or four are used. It certainly is not clear to me.

In conclusion: The end of the contract is too far away from the beginning. We should buy chairs for the Standing Committee and sign the document - in disappearing ink.

P.S. Instead of spending all of that money for studies and planting plants in the lake that will not grow - Why not a sprinkling system to keep it wet when the wind blows?

Congress, not Reagan, gets blame for deficit. Reagan has had only three years of it; many Congressmen were there before it was born.

Key House and Senate Committees will be working to draft tax hikes to slow the growth of budget deficit. Most political committees have a one tax mind.

Look for Mondale to denounce the Teamsters Union. Might as well denounce his Mother.

Supreme court rules against E.R.A. N.O.W. has to go back to M.A.N.A.N.A.

Russian Cosmonaut favors cooperation with U.S. Cosmonauts. Always willing to learn something new to steal.

"New Hampshire voters are the most sophisticated in the U.S." That was not a Mondale quote.

Women will outlive men by 10 years. A result of Women's Lib.

Mondale aides attack Hart. Trying for Hart Failure.

Cranston ends his quest for the White House. By re-request of the voters.

Palimony claims against Liberace thrown out of court. In a glad bag.

Couple admits scheming to bilk Reagan on house deal. At the same time the House is scheming to bilk him on the budget deal.

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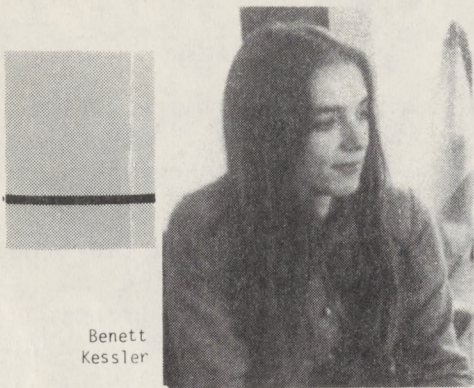
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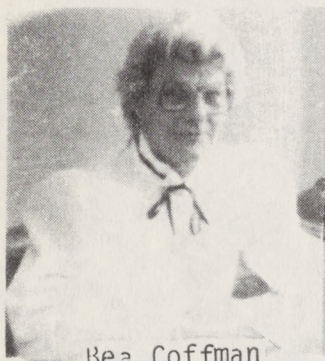
Notes from B.K.

YOU'RE DOING GOOD, LEFTY/ BEA IS LEAVING FOR
NEVADA/ AND JACK RETIRES/ GET WELL, GLORIAN/
IMACA BABY DUE

A prominent Lone Pine resident, who also happens to be a senior citizen, wrote a note to Inyo Supervisor Lefty Irwin. It was a kind of "keep up the good work, you're not alone" letter. Right now, Irwin is the only Supervisor questioning the DWP agreement.

The encouragement note said that the writer, who wishes to remain unnamed for now, talks to many people in Lone Pine, especially senior citizens, who have told him that the proposed agreement should be put to the voters on the June 5th ballot. He says many in Lone Pine agree with Supervisor Irwin's position.

The letter writer says, "in fact, so far not a single person has told me that he or she felt that it should not be placed on the ballot." Irwin was pleased to note that constituents from Southern Inyo districts are behind him and his position in the water controversy.



Bea Coffman

And there's no quarrel over the fact that Bea Coffman of Independence is loved and needed in the community... after 27 years in Inyo, Bea will move in April. The good news is - she's getting married to Larry Hatcher of Gardnerville, Nevada.

She will be especially missed by the County's veterans and by the Independence Volunteer Fire Department people. Of course, Bea is the key worker in the County Veterans Service office... assistant to Veterans Service Officer Bill Hastings.

Hastings is looking for a replacement. Aside from her obvious competency on the job, Bea feels a real loyalty to the veterans and their families. That's the tradition she says she hopes will continue when she is gone.

Bea told us about one case of a veteran's widow. Bea and Hastings sent a personal letter to the woman expressing sympathy and inviting her to come to the office for help. The widow wrote back, "I didn't think anybody cared." Bea always has. She will be missed.

And another transition in Southern Inyo ... Jack Stuckey, long the manager of Security Pacific Bank in Lone Pine is retiring. Of course, Stuckey was with the bank when it was just Inyo-Mono National Bank and has

worked there for the past 13 years. He'll be on vacation until April 30th when he'll begin his retirement. There hasn't been a replacement named, but Stuckey suspects they may bring someone down from Bishop.

And a wish for speedy recovery goes to Glorian Mairs of Independence. The familiar smiling face at Mairs Market won't be there for awhile. We understand Glorian suffered some back trouble.

It's tough for energetic people to rest ... but that's what the doctor has ordered.

And another first... Mark and Suzie Webb of Bishop expecting their first baby any time now. Mark is, of course, head of Inyo-Mono Advocates for Community Action. He's a master at grant writing and has launched a food bank in Bishop for free food giveaways.

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Jackson Pound

Several years ago an aide to Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley told News-Letter that it is L.A.'s policy to discourage growth in the Owens Valley. After all, multiplying business and population means a greater consumption of water and a stronger political base. Two things L.A. apparently wants to discourage here. And so it would seem, DWP crews more often than not are tearing down structures instead of building them up. Dozens of vacant homes have been demolished through the years. Now DWP has plans to destroy the vacant DWP office building at Independence. DWP land agent Cy Jeter said that the Department has recieved bids on the job and within 90 days after the job is awarded, the building will tumble down.

In Bishop, Jeter had said that DWP will eventually demolish the building which used to house El Charro Avitia restuarant and now holds Hal's Auto Body Shop. Of course, El Charro moved to a new location and Hal's plans to build a new shop elsewhere in Bishop.

Then it's up to the wrecking crew to level that area on Bishop's main street.

An internationally famous television personality for many years, Bill Burrud, wants a home in the Eastern Sierra. For a number of years, Burrud travelled around the world, sharing his adventures with the television audience. Now he hosts the program called "Animal World". It is aired on the Disney cable channel.

Apparently, when he's not busy, Burrud and his family want to live in the relative quiet of the Alabama Hills near Lone Pine. But Burrud got into a noisy hassle with the Inyo Planning Commission. They ordered him to pave a road into and out of his property.

But the Burrud's say they want a dirt road and a rural atmosphere. After all, what's a country road with black top on it? Well, the Burrud's appealed the Planning Commission decision. Mrs. Burrud was there, and, in spite of protests by Planning Department people, the Supervisors voted in favor of the Burrud appeal.

So... it's dirt road for now... and the famous Burrud will apparently build a home at the end of the road - a home for resting when he's not busy working on "Animal World".

Out of work - that's the condition of hundreds in Inyo County. Every month the State somehow figures out an unemployment rate for each county in California. Some Officials say the Percentages are off, but do offer a general indicator of the jobless rate.

The latest figures out are for the month of January. Job office Director Jim Snell said that the State reports Inyo County as having a labor force of 11,000. Of that number, 9750 have jobs. 1250 do not. That amounts to a reported 11.3% jobless rate for Inyo. In December, that rate was 8.6%.

Snell said that things have been slow in Inyo County. Traditionally, a few more jobs open up during summer months. Spring,

however, is that limbo time between the height of ski season and fishing season. And so it goes - as long as Inyo's economy revolves almost entirely around tourism, the job scene will probably remain a problem for many who choose Inyo as their home.

What's a Wild Iris? Well, it's a beautiful flower that does grow wild around these parts. But it's also a group of Bishop women who, for the past few years, have worked hard to help out women who are victims of domestic violence - battered wives.

The Wild Iris members have worked with practically no funding and recently they asked the Supervisors for some Government dollars that were already set aside for domestic violence programs. Ironically, this money comes from marriage license fees. Someone must have figured out that a percentage of the once happy newlyweds will end up in physical fights.

Anyway, the supervisors gave the women the funding - more than \$4,000 of it. That will help the Wild Iris find a place for battered wives to go. Last year, the group dealt with 19 cases - mostly battered wives. These women went to shelters outside of Inyo County, say the Wild Iris, away from irate husbands.

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The Way We Were



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